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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1068)

Name of Candidate	ANKIT		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	
Center	DELHI	Date	14/8/18

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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10	10	
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17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   bl esa nl i zu gSa vaxzsth vkSj fgUnh esa Nik gSA
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   lHkh i zu vfuok Z gSa
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   lHkh i zu ds vad mlds lkeus n kZ x gSA
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जो आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक ugha Mk sa ysA
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ के भाग को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. There are many challenges in sustainably scaling up renewable energy in India. Analyse. Also, discuss what can be done to address these challenges. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को संधारणीय रूप से बढ़ाने में कई चुनौतियां हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, चर्चा कीजिए कि इन चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए क्या किया जा सकता है।

Sustainable energy in India is a necessity in order to tackle the consequences of climate change & Global warming.

Current obstacles in scaling up of renewable energy adoption in India are:

a) Public opinion : People, especially in educationally & economically backward areas still prefer to use highly polluting sources of energy.

b) funding : Lack of funds for adoption of solar power in agriculture or high costs of EVs is an appropriate example.

c) Govt. policies : The Govt's changing stances on GST on hybrid / EVs

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as well as import duties on components of solar cells, have ramifications on the wider adoption of such technologies.

d) Lack of R&D by premier institutes, in potentially pioneering tech like biofuels, geothermal etc.

In order to address these challenges, the following ways can be looked upon:

a) funding through green bonds - fund of funds like in Startup India.

b) Marketing/advertising using campaigns similar to Swatch Bharat Abhiyan.

c) focussing on govt. sponsored adoption: Buying 10,000 EVs for govt., Intl. Solar Alliance leadership, mandatory ethanol blending are steps in right direction.

d) Creating seperate Hackathons, fellowships for R&D, intl. research collaborations.

The above methods if followed in letter and spirit can provide some push to the wider usage of renewable energy.

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2. The policies and indicators introduced by the government, in recent times, to finance urban development in India are key in addressing the existing challenges. Discuss with special reference to municipal bonds.

(150 words) 10

हाल ही में, भारत में शहरी विकास का वित्त पोषण करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा आरंभ की गई नीतियां और संकेतक वर्तमान चुनौतियों से निपटने हेतु महत्वपूर्ण हैं। नगरपालिका बंधपत्रों (म्युनिसिपल बॉण्ड) के विशेष संदर्भ के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Govt's recent push towards Smart cities, Housing for all etc. has given a fresh impetus to the goal of urban development.

With regard to the above objective, the following policies have been in the spotlight:

a) Municipal Bonds: Rules formulated by SEBI for municipal bonds' credit ratings, have formalised the funding process.

b) RERA act has improved the regulation of real estate sector - Creation of seperate escrow accounts, better transparency have motivated investors to fund this sector.

c) Housing for all: Various modes of collaboration, PPPs, in beneficiary led

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development, Credit linked Subsidy, in situ Slum redevelopment etc, have created innovative avenues to tap private funding.

d) Smart cities mission - tap investment of tech companies

e) Ease of living index - to ensure outcomes are linked to increased funding.

With regards to urban financing, municipal bonds hold the maximum potential in the following ways:

a) better method for people to invest in their city/neighbourhood - outcomes directly seen as compared to taxes.

b) can help to collect international funding - formalisation of financing through stock markets.

c) less burden on Govt. - better fiscal deficit, lesser subsidies.

d) Better price discovery of infrastructure projects.

Thus, Govt's efforts at finding sources of revenue for funding urban infrastructure, are in the right direction and must be propelled further.

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3. With a number of issues continuing to be a roadblock, a large section of India's rural population is still 'financially excluded'. Discuss. Analyse how these issues can be addressed and the measures taken by the government and RBI recently in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

कई मुद्दों के लगातार अवरोध बने रहने से भारत की ग्रामीण जनसंख्या का एक बड़ा हिस्सा अभी भी 'वित्तीय रूप से अपवर्जित' है। चर्चा कीजिए। इन मुद्दों से कैसे निपटा जा सकता है और हाल ही में सरकार तथा RBI द्वारा इस संबंध में उठाए गए कदमों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

financial exclusion is an issue that has repurcussions for the entire socio-economic inclusion process of the backward sections of our society.

The factors that have acted as roadblocks to the inclusion process are:

a) Lesser banking penetration, low financial viability of branches in villages.

b) Less trust among people towards banks, compared to moneylenders — Cumbersome procedures, unmatching of working times.

c) Educational backwardness of people, less awareness of govt. schemes,

d) Language issues, e) no-frills accounts have impact on bank profits.

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In order to resolve these issues, the following solutions can be proposed:

a) Vernacular mobile applications of banks.

b) banking awareness right from school level.

c) Promotion of branchless banking through post offices, bank correspondents.

d) Attractive schemes, priority lending, one-click banking.

e) Spreading awareness about investment products like stocks, equity for faster income growth.

Govt. and RBI have addressed some of these issues as follows:

a) Priority sector lending norms - even for foreign banks.

b) Subsidies, salaries through Jan Dhan accounts - for MGNREGA, Ujjwala Yojana.

c) Allowing Zero-balance accounts,

d) Post office insurance schemes,

e) Credit guarantee by NABARD, MUDRA, ~~DDUG~~ Ajeevika scheme etc.

Thus, by making a few tweaks in the policy, financial inclusion can be brought back on track.

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4. What do you understand by the term 'Environmental Accounting'? Discussing the rationale behind introducing environmental accounting, highlight its status in India. **(150 words) 10**

'पर्यावरणीय लेखांकन' पद से आप क्या समझते हैं? पर्यावरणीय लेखांकन आरंभ करने के औचित्य की चर्चा करते हुए, भारत में इसकी स्थिति पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Environmental accounting is the process by which actions that bear an impact on the environment, are quantified in monetary terms, keeping in mind the value of resources that the environment provides as well as the services that it performs.

i) for years, it was felt that while diverting ecological resources for creating infrastructure such as clearing forests for dams, cities etc., the true ecological ~~value~~ costs of the diversion were not properly compensated for.

ii) Thus, the concept of ecological or environmental accounting originated as a corollary to financial accounting.

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iii) The concept ensures that the funds collected as compensation are used for regenerating the ecological resource elsewhere, thus ensuring sustainable usage.

With regards to India, the following points elaborate on the usage of this concept:

a) CAMPA: Compensatory afforestation fund at both national & state level, ensures that infrastructural diversions of forest land are appropriately compensated for.

b) Environmental Impact Assessment, 2006: wherein, the impact of polluting activities is measured in both ecological & monetary terms.

c) fines, imposed by National Green Tribunal, often calculate true value of resources while judging the environmental cases.

Thus, India has incorporated this concept in some areas, but it must be further adopted in budgeting as done in case of gender budgeting.

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5. While access to irrigation is important, efficiency of water use is equally, if not more, crucial. Examine. **(150 words) 10**

जहाँ सिंचाई तक पहुँच महत्वपूर्ण है, वहीं जल उपयोग दक्षता भी यदि अधिक नहीं तो उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

India is a country where around 50% of the area under agriculture depends on rains. In such a situation, both the access to irrigation as well as the efficiency of every drop becomes necessary for food security & development as follows:

a) Overuse of water
- leads to soil erosion
- waterbody pollution, eutrophication
- wastage of water
- Growing crops that use too much water, in drought prone areas (sugarcane in cauvery region)

b) Underuse of water : Even with the access to irrigation, it is necessary that every localised area of a farm gets

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access to water at its roots.

c) Lack of data: Sometimes indiscriminate usage of irrigation water, leads to environmental issues like:

i) Groundwater depletion
└ Green revolution states

ii) Increase in soil salinity

iii) Overusing water even for drought resistant crops.

Thus looking at the above facets of water usage, it becomes necessary to follow the principle of more crop per drop, adopting technologies like drip or sprinkler irrigation, so that efficiency of water absorption is improved. Even the agricultural inputs such as fertilisers can be modified, like using neem coated urea to prepare for situations of accidental overusage / floods etc.

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6. For a holistic approach to disaster risk reduction, there is a need to mainstream indigenous traditional knowledge and link it with modern technologies. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**

आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण के एक समग्र दृष्टिकोण के लिए, देशज पारंपरिक ज्ञान को मुख्यधारा में लाने और उसे आधुनिक तकनीकों से जोड़ने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Disaster risk reduction, as defined under the Sendai framework as well as the SDGs, focusses on building back better. In order to focus on disaster resilience, indegenous knowledge helps in the following ways:

a) Indegenous communities have knowledge about common local areas which are highly disaster prone.

b) These people are the first point of contact during any disaster - their local language, access routes, common emergency protocols, can come in handy for rescue efforts.

c) Their awareness about local building materials, such as bamboo in north-east India,

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Igloos in the arctic or the thick clothes worn in Saharan Africa, are all examples where locals have adapted to disaster risk reduction.

Despite the positives of using local knowledge, the locals face the following hurdles:

i) Lack of medication knowledge in epidemics - Ebola, Zika, Nipah virus etc.

ii) Lack of funds - excess time spent in reconstruction

iii) ~~Using~~ Lack of disaster prediction tools.

iv) Lack of recorded data on disasters to be used for R&D.

In light of the above points, it becomes necessary to use modern technologies like machine learning, data analysis, geoengineering, hydrology, etc., in synergy with the traditional knowledge, to support the motto of prevention, mitigation & rehabilitation.

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7. What do you understand by food irradiation? Highlighting some of its unique applications, examine its relevance for India. **(150 words) 10**

खाद्य विकिरण (food irradiation) से आप क्या समझते हैं? इसके कुछ विशिष्ट अनुप्रयोगों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत के लिए इसकी प्रासंगिकता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

food irradiation is a technique wherein low levels of non-ionising radiation is used to improve the shelf life and quality of perishable food commodities.

Some of the applications of food irradiation are:

a) Preventing spoilage of fruits, vegetables, especially before long term storage in godowns.

b) Killing microorganisms that can be harmful to humans & cause food poisoning.

c) Unlike some techniques that end up reducing the quantity of food while maintaining quality, irradiation is a non-intrusive process that doesn't affect the quantity.

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d) Irradiation doesn't affect the molecular structure of the food and is done to improve the longevity of processed food too.

In the Indian context, the concept has the following relevance:

a) Ensuring longevity of procured crops in FCI godowns.

b) Taking care of Sanitary / Phytosanitary issues - especially for export to european countries.

c) BARC in collaboration with FSSAI is focussing on research on food irradiation - application in milk processing, longevity of canned food etc.

Food security involves both adequate production as well as storage of food that can be released to the needy, and irradiation is a technology that takes care of the latter.

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8. Whereas misuse of technology has abetted the spread of fake news, it is with the aid of technology that this menace can be curbed. Elaborate.

(150 words) 10

जहां प्रौद्योगिकी के दुरुपयोग ने फेक न्यूज़ (झूठे समाचारों) के प्रसार को बढ़ावा दिया है, वहीं प्रौद्योगिकी की सहायता से ही इस खतरे पर अंकुश भी लगाया जा सकता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Fake news, as a concept refers to the propagation of unverified ~~to~~/ misleading facts through modes of communication, that tend to alter people's understanding of events around them.

Technology has been at the forefront in the spread of fake news as follows:

a) Strongly interlinked communication networks/social media, that transfer fake news at the click of a button – Cambridge Analytica case.

b) Using advanced tools like AI, machine learning to identify hot topics that strongly influence public sentiments & spreading lies around them. – US elections, Brexit.

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c) Pushing the fake news to the educationally backward social strata to propagate violence - mob lynchings in India, role of whatsapp.

Despite the above glaring cases of misuse, technology can also act as an enabler, preventing fake news:

a) Identifying fake news before it becomes the 'news' by using predictive tools like deep learning.

b) Preventing access to sensitive issue related fake news, to the unaware people, by limiting their exposure.

c) Creating regulatory regime - data localisation, privacy strengthening, data monitoring by authorities etc.

Thus, the role of technology in the circulating of fake news is defined by the intentions of its very users.

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9. Explain the salient features of the recently established Defence Planning Committee. How can it help in credible defence preparedness?

(150 words) 10

हाल ही में गठित रक्षा नियोजन समिति (डिफेंस प्लानिंग कमेटी) की प्रमुख विशेषताओं की व्याख्या कीजिए। यह विश्वसनीय रक्षा तैयारी में कैसे सहायता कर सकता है?

The defence ministry has recently come up with the proposal of setting up a defence planning committee to contemplate on the long term strategic defence procurements & defence policy.

It has the following features:

a) Headed by the National Security Adviser

b) Responsible for interacting with the 3 defence forces & align their long term requirements - like helicopters, fighter planes etc.

c) Increasing defence preparedness - conducting regular monitoring

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of inventory levels, obsoleteness of weapons etc.

d) focussing on Make II procedure : supporting startups, etc. by using policy tools → create enabling environment for make in India.

In particular, the committee will improve defence preparedness in the following ways:

a) focussing on Strategic partnerships - for technology transfer

b) Decide on weapon requirements, well in advance

c) Improve coordination, not just between the 3 forces but also between other govt. departments, ~~like~~ ISRO, IITs etc.

Thus, defence planning committee is a step towards a holistic approach of looking at the country's defence in an integrated manner.

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10. Recent reports of Maoist leaders having amassed huge assets in property and cash underlines the significance of probing the funding network as part of counter-terrorism efforts. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

संपत्ति और नकदी के रूप में विशाल परिसंपत्तियां एकत्रित करने वाले माओवादी नेताओं की हालिया रिपोर्टों ने आतंकवाद-रोधी प्रयासों के भाग के रूप में वित्त पोषण नेटवर्क की जाँच करने का महत्व रेखांकित किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Since independence, Maoism has been a persistent problem faced by the country, and the recent revelation on their funding network, emphasises on curbing their resources in order to eliminate their actions at the very source.

The various sources of maoist funding are:

a) Hawala route, benami transactions

b) International funding by rogue elements in neighbouring countries.

c) Drug peddling: like the ones discovered in Andhra Pradesh

d) Extortions, ransoms in Kidnapping

The amassing of huge amounts of assets by maoist leaders

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shows that their resources can be curtailed in the following ways:

a) Using concept of SAMADHAN & smart police - adept with IT tools for tracking funding

b) Cracking down on financers by ED, CBI etc.

c) Taking development to the affected areas - to improve interaction of people with state like the Gurupriya bridge in Odisha.

d) Improving surveillance on drug pedding, especially on international routes in the north east.

Thus, terror financing must be tackled at its very origin, so that the influence of black money in destabilising initiatives is ~~firm~~ completely eliminated.

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11. Not only do services MSMEs contribute mightily to the overall GDP growth, they have a powerful, multiplier impact on the local economies as well. Elaborating on the statement, highlight the problems faced by service sector MSMEs. How can the government make it easier for MSMEs to start and grow a business? **(250 words) 15**

MSMEs से संबद्ध सेवा उद्यम न केवल समग्र GDP संवृद्धि में बहुत अधिक योगदान देती हैं, बल्कि उनका स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्थाओं पर भी एक सशक्त और गुणक प्रभाव है। इस कथन का सविस्तार वर्णन करते हुए, MSMEs सेवा क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं पर प्रकाश डालिए। सरकार MSMEs के लिए किसी व्यवसाय को आरंभ करने और उसके विकास को कैसे आसान बना सकती है?

The Indian economy in recent times, has become increasingly dependent on the services sector (~65% of GDP), and ~~about~~ over 90% of India's GDP is contributed by the MSME sector.

Thus, the importance of MSME service sector must be understood in the above background as follows:

a) Generate employment ~~at~~ for the lower income groups.

b) Involved in exports and improve the current account deficit.

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c) Cater to the demand of rural India, to which the MNCs still have a limited access.

MSME services have a multiplier effect on local economy in the following ways:

a) NBFCs, moneylending businesses, ~~create~~ fulfill credit demands of MSMEs as well as farmers who wish to enter non-farming activities.

b) Local tourism services, carried out by MSMEs, improve the earnings for the local artisans, restaurants etc.

c) Use of IT tools, like in BPOs, Common Services Centres etc, enable the participation of women, help in skill advancement of the masses and inculcate an entrepreneurial

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spirit among the aspiring youth.

Problems or roadblocks for MSME services are:

a) Lack of funding - MUDRA scheme should focus on special needs of services ~~like~~.

b) Low skills of employees: Skill India mission should use MSME services to improve skills as well as employ the graduates in these enterprises.

c) High level of obligations, labour laws etc - Being at a budding stage, laws must be streamlined for an easier process of business establishment.

Thus, in view of the impact of MSME services on the economy, the focus must be on understanding their special needs and tackling them accordingly.

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12. Contract Farming has many advantages, however it suffers from market failures. Elaborate. What can the government do to correct problems that lead to contract failures? Also, discuss whether the Model Contract Farming Act, 2018 is a step in the right direction. **(250 words) 15**

संविदा कृषि (कॉन्ट्रैक्ट फार्मिंग) के कई लाभ हैं, हालांकि यह बाजार की विफलताओं से ग्रस्त है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। सरकार, संविदा विफलताओं का कारण बनने वाली समस्याओं को ठीक करने हेतु क्या कर सकती है? साथ ही, चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या मॉडल संविदा कृषि अधिनियम, 2018 सही दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है।

Contract farming is a method for empowerment of farmers & increasing their incomes in the following ways:

a) Regularization of agriculture - by collaboration with corporate sector.

b) Higher investment in land, technologies for faster growth

c) Access to credit from banks, bond market etc.

Though the model of contract farming contains the provisions ~~of~~ for benefiting farmers, it can also lead to abrupt failures in cases such as:

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a) Price distortion, which can also happen automatically when contracts focus on a single crop neglecting the others.

b) Environmental consequences of growing highly priced, water/nutrient intensive crops - such as drought, soil infertility

c) Exploitation of farmers, ~~to~~ to produce more crop from the same land → lesser transfer of profits downstream → leading to riots, market disruption

d) Excess use of fertilizers → quality gets affected → leading to ~~...~~ health & economic consequences.

With regards to the above issues, the government can ensure that contracts are followed in the following ways:

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a) Price stabilization mechanisms — Bhavantar Bhugtaan yojana of MP

b) Reducing subsidies & MSP for water ~~insenti~~ intensive crops

c) Regulating the markets to prevent exploitation of farmers — Gramen ~~hats~~ haats, modernise APMCs, streamline enforcement of contracts to ensure fare prices.

~~d)~~ With respect to the above provisions, the Model Contract farming act has the following features:

a) Ensures land utilisation rights to farmers

b) Ensures fair prices & prevent exploitation → by creating district monitoring committees

c) Increased relevance of cooperatives in making contracts for farmer groups.

Though the act enhances contract enforcement, it must dwell in the environmental impacts of land exploitation, to become ~~an~~ a holistic scheme.

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13. Suggest the measures needed to improve the employability of labour force as well as increasing number of employment opportunities in light of structural changes being brought by disruptive technologies.

(250 words) 15

विघटनकारी प्रौद्योगिकियों (डिस्रप्टिव टेक्नोलॉजी) द्वारा लाए जा रहे संरचनात्मक परिवर्तनों के प्रकाश में श्रम बल की नियोजनीयता में सुधार लाने के साथ-साथ रोजगार अवसरों की संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए आवश्यक उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

The world today is experiencing the 4th industrial revolution guided by AI, IoT, big data etc.

These technologies impact the employment conditions in the following ways:

a) demand for high skilled labour.

b) Unemployability of manual workers → replaced by robots.

c) Increased reliance of internet & digital economy → rapid adjustment required towards digital age.

Digital economy, touted to become a $1 trillion industry by 2022, must be tackled such that labour employability can be

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improved in the following ways:

a) Skilling programs - Skill India Mission to focus on providing digital services like banking, tech. entrepreneurships.

b) Improving digitization of economy - promote digital transactions, e-commerce jobs, spread computer / IT education (DIKSHA scheme)

c) Collection of data - in an organised format, that can be readily shared & analysed for figures relating to employment especially in the unorganised sector.

d) Support to MSME sector - to improve their capability to adapt to the digital age, MUDRA funds for digitization, tax incentives for introducing new technologies.

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e) · Support to BPO Sector: which can serve as the first stepping stone for rural masses to enter the digital world.

f) Improving education system - focus on providing IT / coding skills from primary school, modify RTE to ensure everyone gets the basic tech skills (surfing web, creating email) between 6-14 years of age.

g) Use digitization to enhance linking of job seekers with job providers - digitized employment portals etc.

The above measures can be a guiding tool to the government for ensuring a sustainable transition of jobs in this new age.

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14. India's trade policy in agriculture, marred by ad-hocism and pro-consumer bias, has constrained realization of export potential, and prevented the farmers from reaping the benefits. Examine the statement and discuss ways, including government initiatives, to improve agricultural exports.

(250 words) 15

तदर्थता और उपभोक्ता समर्थक पक्षपात से प्रभावित, कृषि में भारत की व्यापार नीति ने निर्यात सामर्थ्य की प्राप्ति को बाधित किया है तथा किसानों को लाभ उठाने से रोका है। इस कथन का परीक्षण कीजिए और सरकारी पहलों सहित कृषि निर्यात में सुधार लाने के तरीकों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

for years, the agricultural sector in India has stagnated at a growth rate of just 3% last year & an contribution of just 15% to the GDP, even though it employs over 50% of the population.

The role of India's trade policy in this phenomenon has been the following:

- Enhancing growth:
  - a) trade policy ensured marketing of agri products, in international markets.
  - b) Quality control & export support, especially in horticulture.

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c) Export agreements with trading countries for reducing tariffs.

d) Financial support, subsidies ~~like~~ & support from EXIM bank.

- Impeding growth :

a) frequently changing import/export duties.

b) Importing pulses ~~to~~ from Africa to maintain goodwill even during a domestic glut situation.

c) Import of cash crops like coffee from ~~Sri Lanka~~ China via Sri Lanka / Bangladesh - misuse of bilateral agreements.

d) ~~low~~ high cost of labour/production, leading to low export competitiveness with respect to South East Asia.

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e) Roadblocks due to Sanitary/ Phytosanitary regulations.

The government can contribute in the following ways to improve the situation:

a) Improving the foreign trade policy 2015-2020 to focus on agriculture, use of e-commerce, big data, AI for identifying new markets.

b) Enhance productivity & logistics infrastructure to reduce export cost → more schemes like SAMPADA, SAGARMALA

c) focus on organic products & quality monitoring especially towards EU.

d) Tap the growing markets, providing credit support (like Letters of Credit).

Thus, the trade policies must be reconsidered and declared for the long term to enhance stability of exports.

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15. Is currency exchange rate a suitable measure of relative economic performance of countries? Despite improving macro-economic fundamentals, trade deficit in India continues to widen. Bring out the factors responsible for this situation. **(250 words) 15**

क्या मुद्रा विनिमय दर देशों के सापेक्ष आर्थिक प्रदर्शन की एक उपयुक्त माप है? मैक्रो इकनॉमिक फंडामेंटल्स (समष्टि-आर्थिक आधारों) में सुधार के बावजूद, भारत में व्यापार घाटा निरंतर बढ़ा है। इस स्थिति के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों को प्रस्तुत कीजिए।

Currency exchange rate is the value of a country's currency relative to those of other countries at purchasing power parity.

The exchange rate shows a country's economic performance as follows:

a) Floating exchange rates depend on a country's trade, export competitiveness

b) A strong macroeconomic situation of improves the strength & confidence for a currency.

c) foreign reserves of a country, help to maintain the exchange rate at a reasonable level → a rapidly worsening exchange rate can indicate

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depleting foreign currency reserves.

Inspite of the above factors supporting a strong correlation, exchange rate suffers from the following drawbacks:

a) fixed exchange rate doesn't give a true picture of the economy.

b) Some countries like China have been alleged to indulge in currency manipulation to improve exports.

c) Trade restrictions / sanctions like those on Iran & Turkey, can ~~create~~ reduce investor confidence in a currency temporarily.

d) Exchange rates have to be in an optimum range for exports to increase & ~~import bill to increase~~ facilitate economic growth → a depreciating currency may indicate a

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convergence towards the optimum value.

~~Since~~ Though exchange rate & trade deficit have a strong correlation, govt. can focus on the following factors causing a widening of trade deficit:

a) High import bill → due to rising oil prices

b) External shocks → global trade wars between USA, China, leading to higher tariffs.

c) Higher dependence on commodities like oil, coking coal, fertilisers, Pharma APIs.

d) Inverted duty ~~structure~~ leading to higher imports of finished products.

e) Lack of access to new markets, especially due to protectionism

Thus, the currency exchange rate despite having an influence on export competitiveness & import bills, is only 1 of the many factors affecting trade deficit.

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16. It will take much more than relief packages to address the problems being faced by the sugar industry in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत में चीनी उद्योग द्वारा सामना की जा रही समस्याओं को दूर करने के लिए राहत पैकेज से आगे और कुछ करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The sugar industry in recent times has been facing a diverse set of problems, requiring quintessential support from the government.

The situation can be described as follows:

a) High prices of sugar in past years → led to increase in sugarcane acreage

b) Glut in sugar market leading to sharp fall in prices

c) Limitations put by Govt. on sugar export → to increase production of ethanol for blending with petrol.

d) Increasing arrears of the

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sugar producing companies towards the sugarcane farmers, running to over ₹20,000 crore.

The fact that the problems have been created by factors ~~other than go~~ in addition to government policies, makes it imperative to follow an all round approach to solve this crisis:

a) Necessary to incorporate price stabilization mechanism for sugar ₹

b) Sugarcane MSP must be set keeping in mind its environmental impact → high groundwater depletion

c) Excess sugar must be exported ~~as low~~ untill the ethanol blending programme reaches the

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desired level of progress.

d) Data must be collected regarding region wise sugarcane acreage, domestic demand in past years, needs for ethanol production, & international demands.

e) Big data should be used to forecast the respective future demands.

f) sugarcane subsidies to be reduced to minimum to limit the environmental impacts.

g) Robustness of sugar industry should be improved → more credit for export, automation of factories, marketing of exports, GI tags for jaggery & other derived products.

Thus, relief packages tackle only 1 aspect of the issues that the sugar industry faces today.

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17. NAPCC, almost 10 years old and formulated with lofty objectives, has not served as the best answer to cope with the impacts of climate change. Critically discuss. **(250 words) 15**

लगभग 10 वर्ष पुराने और उत्कृष्ट लक्ष्यों के साथ सूत्रबद्ध, NAPCC ने जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों का सामना करने संबंधी सर्वोत्तम अनुक्रिया के रूप में कार्य नहीं किया है। आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

National Action Plan on Climate Change, created in 2008 is a wide ranging initiative focussing on the diverse factors that contribute to Global warming.

The plan focusses on the following:

a) Afforestation

b) Reduced emissions during energy production, transportation

c) localised weather monitoring, climate disaster preparedness

d) Air pollution reduction, especially in cities, like NCAP, NAQS (air quality standard)

e) R&D on new technologies, like biogas, drought resistant crops etc.

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Though the Plan seems to cover nearly all the diverse aspects of Climate change, it has been limited in its impact, signified by India's rank at the bottom in air quality ~~de~~related deaths, climate related migration forecasts, & high levels of pollution.

The reasons for this are as follows:

a) Poor monitoring - of pollution levels, very few air pollution monitoring centres even in Delhi where PM 2.5 frequently exceeds 500.

b) financial distress of renewable energy sector - NPAs of banks, revision of power purchase agreements,

c) Utilisation of Compensatory Afforestation fund has been lacklustre.

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d) Ethanol blending programme has failed to ~~reach~~ finish its stages on deadlines.

e) Over 1.2 million pollution related deaths every year

f) Climate change phenomena causing floods in Kerala, Assam etc.

g) Poor state of affairs with respect to exploitation of natural resources, coal mining, plastic pollution.

Inspite of the above impediments, the plan has been successful in bringing climate change onto the discussion table.

This has enabled the formulation of policies ~~&~~ & initiatives like International Solar Alliance. The only thing that these measures lack is proper implementation & a sense of responsibility towards the environment.

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18. Proliferation of nuclear weapons and the threat of their use are key concerns for global security nonetheless existing international arrangements seem to be ineffective. Comment. Also, identify the salient features of India's policy in this context and discuss whether India should join the NPT in the current form. **(250 words) 15**

परमाणु हथियारों का प्रसार और उनके उपयोग का खतरा वैश्विक सुरक्षा की प्रमुख चिंताएं हैं, इसके बिना वर्तमान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था अप्रभावी प्रतीत होती है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संदर्भ में भारत की नीति की प्रमुख विशेषताओं को चिन्हित कीजिए तथा चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या भारत को वर्तमान प्रारूप वाले NPT में सम्मिलित होना चाहिए।

Nuclear weapons have been regarded as the flagbearers of ~~human~~ destruction, and their continued stockpiling poses a significant risk for humanity.

Existing international arrangements to prevent nuclear proliferation are:

a) Nuclear Suppliers Group - limiting ~~to~~ access to raw materials for weapons.

b) Non-Proliferation treaty - limiting transfer of sensitive technologies that can be used in weapons.

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c) Missile ~~Control~~ Technology control regime - limiting the capabilities of missiles to carry weapons over long distances.

d) UN resolutions - demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons - supported by Noble Peace Prize winning ICAN initiative.

Despite these arrangements, significant results have not been obtained because of:

a) Illegal transfer of tech. to rogue elements → from Pakistan to North Korea.

b) No solution for ensuring peace without nuclear weapons.

c) A symbol of becoming global superpower → North korea's adventurism.

d) Lack of effective control of

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international agencies like UN, NSG.

India has the following nuclear policy:

a) No first attack doctrine.

b) Credible intimidation to ensure peace

c) India supports a transparent mechanism that is based on rules and is equitable to ensure long lasting peace without nuclear weapons.

The NPT was established in 1974 to limit nuclear weapons to countries that had already become nuclear powers by then. NPT in the current form is:

a) biased towards the haves, compared to the have nots.

b) No credible mechanism to check proliferation.

c) Countries like North Korea, Iran etc. looking to have weapons shows the failure of NPT.

Thus, India should vouch for a more transparent process under UN that is just in nature.

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19. The maritime security domain requires collective multilateral and regional cooperation to combat non traditional threats. Discuss in the context of threats in the Western Indian Ocean and the recent amendments in the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

(250 words) 15

समुद्री सुरक्षा प्रक्षेत्र (डोमेन) गैर-परंपरागत खतरों का सामना करने हेतु सामूहिक बहुपक्षीय और क्षेत्रीय सहयोग की मांग करता है। पश्चिमी हिंद महासागर में खतरों और जिबूती आचरण संहिता में हालिया संशोधन के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Maritime security, especially in the western Indian ocean, is marred by cases of piracy, especially near somalia, which threaten the flow of international trade especially in the gulf region.

The threats ~~of~~ to maritime security in western Indian Ocean are as follows:-

a) Lack of patrolling capabilities - especially of small island states & African coastal countries.

b) Increasing militarisation of Islands, like China's bases, pose a threat to

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freedom of trade & navigation.

c) Region surrounded by countries suffering from instabilities → militants in Gulf region

d) flow of critical commodities like crude oil, through the region → can have strategic impact on a nation's energy security.

In order to counter the threats, unilateral actions are insufficient because:

a) Activities in International Maritime areas, or hijacking of a country's ship in other countries' EEZ.

b) Small Island states depend on larger neighbouring countries for large scale or sensitive rescue operations.

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Example → Operation Cactus in Maldives against LTTE.

c) Countries with higher amounts of tech & economic resource must collaborate with smaller states for reconnaissance, patrolling, monitoring, while respecting their territorial integrity.

d) A collective framework can resolve boundary disputes & ensure responsibility to specific countries during distress.

The Djibouti Code of Conduct is one such collective effort that ensures:

a) No port is used as a military base for selfish priorities by any country.

b) Respect for freedom of navigation

c) Information Sharing on real time basis to resolve misunderstanding

Thus, countries especially under BIMSTEC, Indian Ocean Region etc, should collaborate on more such frameworks to ensure protection of sea lanes of communication

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20. India's space programme was initiated with the vision of utilising outer space for peaceful purposes, however with changing times it has the potential to play a significant role in strengthening security capabilities of India. Discuss with adequate examples. **(250 words) 15**

भारत का अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम, शांतिपूर्ण उद्देश्यों हेतु बाह्य अंतरिक्ष का उपयोग करने के दृष्टिकोण के साथ आरंभ किया गया था, हालांकि बदलते समय के साथ इसमें भारत की सुरक्षा क्षमताओं को मजबूत बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने की क्षमता है। यथोचित उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Outer Space today is being increasingly used, not only as an exploration arena, but also as a new battlefield to show military dominance.

In view of the above statement, India must reorient its space programme as follows:

a) focus on surveillance capabilities: USA has its GPS, while EU is working on Galileo, Russia has Glonass & China too is creating its own navigation system for monitoring.

India, too can use its ~~South~~ IRNSS system of satellites,

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to ensure, realtime accurate navigation information for its military.

b) Creation of unconventional defence weapons: USA has been working on LASER based weapons, while China too has come up with plans to install weapons in space.

India, therefore must not be the one left behind in this star wars scenario, and should work on an integrated theatre command.

c) Satellites in recent times have been used for weather control, through localized heating, cloud seeding etc. Such technologies can wreak havoc in India during a war, and therefore defence preparedness becomes necessary.

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d) With USA's renewed efforts to set up a human colony on Mars, India must ensure that its Gaganyaan program is the first in a long series of human exploration missions, to ensure strategic advantage.

e) Satellites have increased relevance in terms of cybersecurity: China recently experimented with Quantum encrypted communication. India should work in this direction & ensure funds, for R&D in such fields.

In view of the above challenges, it is a stark reality that space that was once a metaphorical battleground between 2 superpowers competing to win the space race, is today on the verge of becoming an actual battlezone & India must be ready for all adverse scenarios.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1152)

Name of Candidate	ANKIT		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	25670
Center	DELHI	Date	13TH Sept, 18

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Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. The crucial position accorded to the Speaker in Indian legislatures, makes it imperative to protect them from undue political pressures. Examine.

(150 Words) 10

भारतीय विधान-मंडलों में अध्यक्ष को प्रदान की गई महत्वपूर्ण प्रस्थिति वस्तुतः उन्हें अनुचित राजनीतिक दबावों से सुरक्षित करना अनिवार्य बनाती है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Speaker under the Indian constitution, performs the role of a regulator of free flow of discussions & debates in the Indian Parliament.

The role performed by a Speaker is as follows:

a) Allowing discussions, debates on government policies

b) Enforcing decorum, discipline in legislative discussions.

c) Deciding on discretionary matters, like anti-defection rules.

d) Spearhead various parliamentary committees (standing & ad-hoc)

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e) Ensuring administrative efficiency of parliament with the help of secretariat.

f) Classification of bills as money bills

g) Quasi-Judicial functions → action against privilege motions, contempt etc.

Thus, in light of the seriousness of the above functions, a partisan speaker, can be bad in the following ways:

a) Disguise of legislations under money bills.

b) Unfairness in decisions → like anti-defection

c) Suppression of freedom of speech of parliamentarians

d) Stalling of working of various committees that can scrutinise government.

Thus, it is necessary that speakers are protected from political pressures to faithfully discharge their duties.

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2. Examine the significance of Gram Sabhas, as mentioned in Article 243A of the Indian constitution, in the development process with special reference to Fifth Schedule areas. (150 Words) 10

पांचवीं अनुसूची के क्षेत्रों के विशेष संदर्भ के साथ विकास की प्रक्रिया में, भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 243A में वर्णित ग्राम सभाओं के महत्व का परीक्षण कीजिए।

Gram Sabhas, after their constitutional validation under the 73rd Amendment, have acquired a major role in grassroot development.

Relevance of Gram Sabhas, as highlighted under article 243A are:

a) Preparation of development proposals → which are further checked by higher agencies.

b) Consideration of local requirements → of roads, schools, hospitals

c) Justice and equitable society is established through discussions.

d) Community belonging, as a feeling is developed.

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e) Women empowerment is further improved, especially through constitutional reservation.

f) Social audit functions are performed → enhancing transparency, accountability.

g) Empowerment of backward sections → SCs / STs through reservations & leadership.

With special reference to 5th Schedule areas, Gram Sabhas:

a) Give approval to district development plans.

b) Are entitled to preserve their local customs, traditions.

c) Authorised to approve land acquisition, rehabilitation, etc.

d) have representation at higher levels of governance as well as autonomy.

Thus, the 73rd amendment has brought in a radical improvement in service delivery through Gram Sabhas.

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3. On what grounds can a person be denied the right to contest elections to the Parliament in India? Will a lifetime ban on those convicted of heinous crimes address the problem of criminalization of politics? Discuss in light of recent judgments by the Supreme Court. **(150 Words) 10**

किसी व्यक्ति को भारत में संसद हेतु चुनाव लड़ने के अधिकार से किन आधारों पर वंचित किया जा सकता है? क्या जघन्य अपराधों के दोषी व्यक्तियों पर आजीवन प्रतिबंध से राजनीति के अपराधीकरण की समस्या हल होगी? सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा दिए गए हाल के निर्णयों के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

In India, various legislations & supreme court judgements outline the grounds, on which a person loses the right to contest elections.

Some of these are:

a) RPA, 1951

b) Supreme court Guidelines for decriminalization & transparency of Politics.

Some of the relevant grounds are:

a) Heinous crimes, that can lead to prison sentence over 2 years (disqualification upto 6 years under RPA, 1951).

b) Promoting enmity among groups during elections, based on religion

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caste, gender, creed etc.

c) Loss of citizenship

d) Age limits (minimum 25 years of age needed)

A lifetime ban on convicted persons would have following implications:

Pros	Cons
1) Public image of parties will improve	1) Injustice to people who have been implicated falsely under political motivations.
2) Restoration of faith in electoral process	2) Even arrests under sedition act, UAPA, 1967 etc, can lead to social activists losing the right to contest.
3) Spillover effects to economic, social, ~~polit~~ administrative areas	

Thus, instead of a lifetime ban, to pursue the goal of decriminalization, increasing voter awareness, transparency of filing process and regular financial, criminal audits are necessary.

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4. The Departmentally-Related Standing Committees have been referred to as mini-parliaments in India. Highlight their relevance in a democratic polity and discuss, with examples, how they improve the overall effectiveness of the Parliament. **(150 Words) 10**

विभागों से संबद्ध स्थायी समितियों (विभागीय स्थायी समितियों) को भारत में लघु-संसदों के रूप में संदर्भित किया गया है। लोकतांत्रिक राज्यव्यवस्था में उनकी प्रासंगिकता पर प्रकाश डालिए और उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए कि वे संसद की समग्र प्रभावकारिता में किस प्रकार वृद्धि करती हैं।

The departmentally related standing committees, due to their significant scope of work as well as diverse membership across parties, are referred to as mini-parliaments.

Their importance is highlighted by the following:

a) Subordinate legislation: Analyse the scope for detailed laws.

b) Scrutiny of bills, framed by government, to look at financial, administrative or legal lacunae,

c) Seek expert help, even from industry, academia, to further the goal of democratic deliberations.

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d) Recommend opinions of opposition parties, independent members etc, who may not express them directly in parliament.

Inspite of such diverse functions, they remain ineffective because:

a) Limited time frame of work.

b) Overburdened by legislation & deliberation process.

c) Pressure of ruling party leads to stalling of reports.

d) Act as a post mortem sometimes, since relevant funds are audited after expenditure.

Thus, to improve their working:

a) Increase funds / manpower.

b) Create specialist cells of experts

c) Allow presentation of timely reports with dissent notes.

d) Significant involvement even during expenditure phase.

Thus, through higher power and scrutinising role, such committees can improve democratic functioning.

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5. Social audit has a crucial role in effective implementation of social sector programmes. Comment. Also, discuss its strengths and limitations.

(150 Words) 10

सामाजिक क्षेत्र के कार्यक्रमों के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में सामाजिक लेखा परीक्षण की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके मजबूत पक्षों और सीमाओं पर भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Social audits in recent times, have emerged as a new method of increasing transparency of governance at the grassroot level.

Their roles in implementation of social sector programmes, are:

a) Ensure system of checks & balances → for transparent usage of funds.

b) Enable gram sabhas, civil society to understand implementation process as well as legal, environmental factors that can impede progress.

c) District administration, ~~is~~ comes under pressure of accountability mechanisms.

d) CAG is supported by additional manpower, to scrutinise

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funds, etc.

e) Help ~~to~~ the backward communities to question governance and gather information to assert their rights.

Strengths of Social audit are:

a) Can be done at local level

b) Improves communication with district administration.

c) ~~Trace of~~ Gives scrutinizing power to local people, as done in Meghalaya recently.

Limitations are as follows:

a) Lack of expertise to understand expenditure patterns.

b) Lack of manpower/people actually interested in involvement.

c) Absence of whistleblower protection, unification with RTI not elaborated.

Thus, Social audit is a transformative tool for new age governance, but it must be enhanced by acting on its limitations.

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6. Discuss the significance of the 268th report of the Law Commission in addressing the problems of undertrials in India. What other measures can be taken in this regard? (150 Words) 10

भारत में विचाराधीन कैदियों की समस्याओं को दूर करने में विधि आयोग की 268वीं रिपोर्ट के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। इस संबंध में अपनाए जा सकने वाले अन्य उपाय कौन-से हैं?

The law commission's 268th report deals with the ~~pr~~ burgeoning issue of undertrials congested in overflowing prisons across the country.

The reasons for such a problem are:

a) Absence of speedy justice → backlog of cases.

b) Accusation over trivial cases

c) falsely implicated undertrials → especially under non-bailable offences.

d) Absence of case management system → poor prioritisation methods

Significance of such an issue is:

a) India as a resource starved country → difficult to handle prisons with so many undertrials.

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b) Loss of trust from judicial system → people waiting for 20-30 years even without being convicted.

c) International disreputation → human rights issue, failure of extradition talks

d) Absence of transparency in police's methods → false convictions for quick promotions

In order to solve the above issue:

a) AI can be used for efficient sorting of cases

b) Reducing judicial vacancies

c) Using arbitration, mediation, ~~etc~~. lok adalats.

d) Resorting to open-jails, house arrests, freeing those who finish half of the relevant sentence.

Thus, the problem of undertrials is multidimensional & hence requires a holistic solution.

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7. Enumerate the major welfare schemes for the elderly in India. Examine whether their benefits are reaching the targeted population. **(150 Words) 10**

भारत में वृद्धजनों के लिए प्रमुख कल्याणकारी योजनाओं को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए? परीक्षण कीजिए कि क्या उनके लाभ लक्षित लोगों तक पहुंच रहे हैं।

According to World Bank's statistics, the percentage of elderlies (above 60) in the population of India, would cross 30% by 2050.

In light of this fact, major welfare schemes for elderlies are:

a) Social safety:
   i) National social assistance program → for BPL elderlies
   ii) Varishtha pension yojana
   iii) Schemes by LIC, providing 8% interest over 10 years investment.
   iv) Atal Pension Yojana

b) Medical:
   i) free provision of assistive devices → hearing aids
   ii) Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana
   iii) Suraksha Bima Yojana

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c) Legal :

i) Amendment to Maintainance act, removing upper limit.

ii) Provision in Assam, to disqualify people from elections who neglect parents' maintainance.

Though, there are a wide variety of welfare schemes, their implementation suffers as follows :

a) Absence of awareness

b) Regular visits to banks, offices for pension, aids etc.

c) Need of emotional support not fulfilled by financial maintainance.

d) Social differences among elderlies of SCs, STs, disabled, etc., not effectively incorporated.

Thus, though the schemes are good in letter & spirit, their implementation can be improved through wider consultation, such as with National Council of Senior Citizens etc.

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8. **Demographic dividend may become demographic liability in the absence of adequate skill development. In this context, discuss the importance of National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2015.**

(150 Words) 10

समुचित कौशल विकास के अभाव में जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश, जनसांख्यिकीय दायित्व बन सकता है। इस संदर्भ में, राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमिता नीति, 2015 के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए।

With India's demographic dividend reaching its peak during the 2020s (quoted by Economic Survey), it is imperative to look at its implementation.

The National policy for Skill development & entrepreneurship, 2015, has the following relevant features:

a) Handholding support to first time entrepreneurs, women, SCs, STs → financial, management, legal guidance.

b) Recognition of prior learning

c) focus on vocational training → assess industry's requirements, resort to PPP methods.

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d) focus on reskilling programs, apprenticeship, certification.

e) Reforming ITIs, training of trainers

f) fuelling job growth, by ~~eas~~ reforming labour laws.

g) fiscal incentives to startups, etc.

Though the scheme has many efficacious solutions, to prevent the emergence of demographic liability:

a) focus on providing relevant jobs to educated unemployed

b) Improve health, education infrastructure.

c) Regulation of training providers, ITIs → ensure quality.

d) Easier exit options for startups.

Thus, Skill development is a critical factor in harnessing the demographic dividend for which all out efforts must be made.

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9. It has been acknowledged widely that smart power is the best possible way for achieving intended foreign policy outcomes. Examine in the context of India. **(150 Words) 10**

यह व्यापक रूप से स्वीकार किया गया है कि स्मार्ट पावर विदेश नीति के अपेक्षित परिणामों को प्राप्त करने का सर्वोत्तम संभव तरीका है। भारत के संदर्भ में इसका परीक्षण कीजिए।

In international relations, power is often classified as hard, soft or fast power, but a rising new variety is that of smart power.

Smart power, has the following features:

a) focus on strengths of domestic economy.

b) identifying areas of strategic collaboration in areas of weakness.

c) Asserting autonomy and diplomatic force (hard power) as well as cultural attraction, cordial relations (soft power) simultaneously.

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In the context of India, it is relevant as follows:

a) Indo-USA → Pursuing visa reforms, through India's IT contributions (soft power). Protecting IPR laws for generic medicines, through international mobilisation. Resisting unilateral & swift policy changes by USA. (hard power).

b) Indo-China → Progress after Wuhan informal summit even after Doklam crisis (delinking efforts of different topics).

c) Indo-Pakistan → Military preparedness, even while pursuing peace talks.

d) Indo-Israel → Delinking palestine issue for strategic collaboration.

Thus, India must follow on the path of smart power that it has done as seen from above examples.

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10. Accession to the Ashgabat agreement is valuable for connecting India to its extended neighbourhood. What is the Ashgabat Agreement? Assess its significance for India. **(150 Words) 10**

अश्गाबात समझौते में शामिल होना वस्तुतः भारत के लिए अपने विस्तारित पड़ोस से जुड़ने की दृष्टि से मूल्यवान है। अश्गाबात समझौता क्या है? भारत के लिए इसके महत्व का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

Ashgabat agreement was signed between India, Iran and Afghanistan to allow India to trade with Afghanistan via Iran.

It has the following features:

a) Access to Chabbahar port, for transporting goods to Afghanistan via highway routes.

b) Access to the international North-South Transit Corridor via Iran, for improved access via land route to Central Asia and Europe.

The agreement has the following significance for India:

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a) Removing the necessity of travelling via Pakistan, in light of failed peace talks.

b) Enhanced energy security, with better Indo-Iran relations.

c) Enhanced role of India in Afghan peace process through transfer of men, materials and services.

d) A counter to the Belt and Road initiative, ensuring strategic advantage in Persian Gulf.

Thus, the agreement is a shining armor in India's diplomatic victories and must be pursued, taking other countries too onboard.

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11. Despite long-term recognition of the problem of pendency of cases in the courts, limited progress has been made in reducing their number. What are the possible reasons for such a scenario? Suggest a framework of measures that can be taken to address this issue. **(250 Words) 15**

न्यायालयों में मुकदमों के लंबित रहने की समस्या की बहुत समय से पहचान होने के बाद भी इनकी संख्या को कम करने की दिशा में सीमित प्रगति ही हो पाई है। ऐसे परिदृश्य के लिए संभावित कारण क्या हैं? इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए विभिन्न उपायों की एक रूपरेखा का सुझाव दीजिए।

The judiciary in India is overburdened by the large number of cases (over 1 lakh as recorded by Law Commission report).

The reasons for such a scenario are:

a) filing of cases for petty reasons, in higher judiciary, which can be resolved through mediation or lok adalats.

b) Slow progress of cases → adjournment used deliberately the accused to delay the judicial process.

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c) Judicial vacancies : Absence of National Judicial appointment Commission.

d) Absence of case management system → Absence of data on number of cases pending, years of pendency etc.

e) Lack of awareness of the justice seekers, who are sometimes looted by corrupt lawyers by delay of justice

f) Appealing to higher courts, even on the presence of substantial proof against accused, etc.

The situation, can be addressed in the following ways :

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a) Clear definition of each courts jurisdiction, especially the pecuniary amounts involved.

b) fast track courts, especially for sensitive cases of gender violence, caste discrimination

c) finalisation of judicial appointments process with transparency

d) Use of AI to establish advanced prioritisation algorithms for long pending cases.

e) Establishment of seperate grievance redressal mechanism

f) awareness campaign for judicial reforms

With the above mentioned solutions, the burden of cases can be reduced without hampering the quality of justice delivery.

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12. Despite the phrase 'due process of law' not being mentioned in the Constitution, the Supreme Court, over the years, has adopted the doctrines of 'procedural due process' and 'substantive due process' into Indian constitutional law. Comment. **(250 Words) 15**

संविधान में 'विधि की सम्यक् प्रक्रिया' पद का उल्लेख नहीं होने के बावजूद, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने विगत वर्षों में भारतीय संवैधानिक कानून में 'प्रक्रियात्मक सम्यक् प्रक्रिया' और 'सारवान सम्यक् प्रक्रिया' का सिद्धांत अपनाया है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

'Due process of law' is a feature of the American Constitution. The Indian Constitution on the other hand, established the British system of 'Procedure established by law'.

Over the years, this doctrine which prescribes the checking of validity of the procedure as enumerated in laws, has been widened in spirit by Supreme Court judgements as follows:

a) The Basic structure doctrine: As established in

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the Keshavanda Bharti case. It enables the court to overrule those laws which affect the Basic structure of constitution as defined by various judgements, even if the legislation process follows valid procedures.

b) Doctrine of non retrogression: As defined recently in the overruling of Section 377, wherein laws cannot reduce the level of freedom & other rights already granted to citizens.

c) Modern interpretation of rights: Article 21 with respect to privacy, or Article 25 in the Sabarimala case or the Triple Talaq case. These enable the courts to widen their

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interpretation & prevent encroachment even by ~~duly~~ procedurally established laws.

Thus, the Supreme court has established 2 doctrines:

a) Procedural due process: which, as explicitly mentioned by the constitution, checks validity of only the procedure of law making.

b) Substantive due process: checks the substance or essence of the law in light of the modern interpretation of constitutional rights.

Thus, the 2 doctrines help significantly in the development of a modern, liberal society on the path of progress.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. Mention the constitutional provisions to safeguard and ensure the independent and impartial functioning of the UPSC. Further, assess the limitations of UPSC in effectively performing its role as the 'watchdog of merit system' in India as envisioned by the Constitution. **(250 Words) 15**

UPSC की स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष कार्य पद्धति को सुरक्षित रखने और सुनिश्चित करने हेतु संवैधानिक प्रावधानों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, संविधान द्वारा प्रकल्पित 'योग्यता प्रणाली के संरक्षक' के रूप में अपनी भूमिका को प्रभावी रूप से निष्पादित करने में UPSC की सीमाओं का आकलन कीजिए।

Union Public Service Commission has been the epitome of transparent, accountable and rule based recruitment processes over the years.

Constitutional provisions related to its independence are:

a) fixed term of members & chairman

b) Salaries, allowances charged on consolidated fund of India → can't be reduced after appointment.

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c) Role of recruitment of central service officers without any political interference.

d) Performs Quasi-judicial functions through departmental ~~eg~~ enquiries, etc., with respect to civil servants.

Inspite of the above provisions for independence, the real situation is not as expected because:

a) Overtaking of recruitment role by ordinances or executive order, as recently done in the lateral entry decision.

b) It only performs the role of recruitment, whereas training and service conduct rules handled by

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separate departments.

c) Since transfers of the officials are decided by Central government, it affects UPSC's autonomy.

d) Limited involvement of UPSC in State civil services, marks a dent on the merit system especially at grassroots.

In order to tackle the above challenges:

a) Provide authority to UPSC to oversee functions of SPSCs.

b) fixed tenure of officials

c) Authority to take actions even during training/service period

d) Involvement in the reformation of recruitment process.

The above steps can restore the independence of UPSC as swiftly.

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14. Faulty regulatory policies can have a severe adverse effect on the efficient interplay of market forces and end up harming public interest. Examine in the context of systemic issues pertaining to regulatory environment in India. **(250 Words) 15**

दोषपूर्ण नियामकीय नीतियों का बाजार बलों की कुशल अंतःक्रिया पर गंभीर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ सकता है और सार्वजनिक हित की क्षति हो सकती है। भारत में नियामकीय वातावरण से संबंधित प्रणालीगत मुद्दों के संदर्भ में परीक्षण कीजिए।

The period before 1991 was marred by a faulty licensing regime whose shadows lurk even today in the form of faulty regulatory policies.

Systemic issues regarding regulatory policies are:

a) Too much paperwork, complexity of licensing laws, and separate licenses for electricity, raw material import, etc, harm business sentiment.

b) Overregulation of labour laws, end up harming the

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job market by leading to increased contractualisation of workforce, or shifting of facilities to less restrictive countries.

c) Laws & regulations whose unintended consequences are not properly contemplated can significantly harm the economy as well as social sectors like health, education.

Recent HECI bill hampers finances of universities, SEBI rules for regulation of NRI ownership of mutual funds, etc.

d) Even with a well intentioned regulation, poor implementation or significant scope for corruption

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can hamper the intended benefits. Example → protests by displaced people against private sector manufacturing plants in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu etc.

e) Usually, to compensate for the time & cost overruns due to faulty regulations, consumers are charged higher prices. In some cases, the services / goods may even be limited to specific businessfriendly areas. ~~Hence~~

Hence we find that faulty regulatory policies don't just have a direct impact on market forces, the effects are further transferred to the consumers, hampering public interests.

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15. There is a need to introduce urgent reforms in the Cooperative sector to deal with the challenges that it has been facing. Discuss. **(250 Words) 15**

सहकारी क्षेत्र द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याओं से निपटने के लिए इसमें तत्काल सुधार लाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The cooperative sector, backed by the constitution under article 43A, ~~is~~ has revolutionarized the welfare of farmers across the country.

The sector, though faces certain systemic issues as follows:

a) Lack of accountability of the managers of large scale cooperatives, towards the small farmers.

b) Irregular auditing of cooperatives, provides scope for corruption, misinformation at the grassroot level.

c) Diverse laws across the country, since cooperatives

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come under the state list, in 7th schedule of the constitution.

d) Absence of handholding for budding social entrepreneurs of the cooperative sector

e) Lack of adequate financing mechanism, especially in light of unreliability of agricultural / dairy output, due to monsoon failures, zoonotic diseases etc.

f) Mismanagement of cooperative governance boards → lack of experience among farmers to manage organisations professionally.

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The above issues can be resolved as follows:

a) Proper streamlining of various state laws under a central guideline.

b) Regular social audits done by NGOs, private sector to provide regular, accurate information to farmers.

c) financing and guidance to cooperative entrepreneurs under MUDRA scheme, Startup India etc.

d) hiring of professional managers from private sector.

Thus, the cooperative sector requires wide ranging reforms to realise the goal of a prosperous agricultural community.

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16. Explain the features and significance of the recently launched National Nutrition Mission. Also, discuss with examples, the role that local self governments can play in promoting, monitoring and sustaining nutrition initiatives. **(250 Words) 15**

हाल ही में आरंभ किये गए राष्ट्रीय पोषण मिशन की विशेषताओं और महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए। साथ ही, पोषण से संबद्ध पहलों को बढ़ावा देने, उनकी निगरानी करने और उनकी सततता बनाए रखने में स्थानीय स्व-शासन द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका पर उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए।

The National Nutrition Mission was launched by the PM in Jhunjhunu Rajasthan, and provides a holistic approach to tackle malnutrition.

It has the following features:

a) Digitisation of registers maintained by ANM, ASHA workers regarding child health.

b) Clearly defined targets.
- → Reduce stunting to 25% by 2022 (Mission 25)
- → Reduce stunting, wasting, underweight → 2% per year
- → Reduce anaemia in women → 3% per year.

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c) financial incentives to well performing districts & detailed analysis for low performing regions → establishment of adequate monitoring systems with detailed analysis reports prepared for monitoring at Central, State levels.

d) focus on backward districts, with higher malnutrition, disease prevalence and low sanitation.

e) Collaborative approach by bringing together health (preventive care), education (mid day meal, learning outcomes), etc, together under the mission.

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Local Self governments, in particular can play the following roles:

a) Ensuring accountability of interventions → social audits.

b) Adapting interventions to local conditions → local foods in diet plans.

c) Awareness campaigns upto household levels → holding parents responsible for child's nutrition.

d) Provision of special requests to tackle specific challenges → higher iodine deficiency through supply of more iodized salts, etc.

Thus, local self governments can help in the local adaptation of the mission, thus enhancing its universality & outreach to the needy.

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17. While many people have been able to rise above poverty line, India is still home to the largest number of poor. Briefly discuss the factors responsible for the prevalence of poverty in India. What are the areas in which focused efforts need to be made in order to accelerate poverty eradication in a sustainable manner? **(250 Words) 15**

जहाँ, कई लोग गरीबी रेखा से ऊपर आने में सफल रहे हैं, वहीं भारत में अभी भी सर्वाधिक संख्या में गरीब निवास करते हैं। भारत में गरीबी की व्यापकता के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर संक्षेप में चर्चा कीजिए। गरीबी उन्मूलन की गति को संधारणीय तरीके से तीव्र करने के लिए किन क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

According to the poverty line estimate under Tendulkar committee, around 10% people in the country are below the poverty line.

The reasons for poverty prevalance are:

a) lack of social safety net
→ especially for the unorganised sector
→ lacks of awareness of Atal Pension Yojana, etc.

b) Out of pocket health expenditure → covering 70% of total health expenditure

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thus pushing households into poverty.

c) Lack of skilling and employment opportunities:
Agriculture sector overburdened by disguised employment.
Decreasing demand for low skilled jobs.

d) Neglect of affected people due to lesser outreach of government schemes, especially in tribal, north east areas.

In order to accelerate poverty eradication, as outlined under SDG 1, following areas can be focussed upon:

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a) Introducing Universal Basic income, in place of various subsidies for BPL families
↳ more freedom on expenditure.

b) Awareness campaigns of government pension, social assistance schemes

c) Skilling programmes, vocational training under Skill India.

d) Decriminalization of Begging & proper rehabilitation.

e) Outreach of Ayushmaan Bharat to reduce out of pocket health expenditure.

Thus, through the above focussed efforts, poverty reduction as a dream can be sustainably realised.

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18. Several issues related to adopting new technologies, transforming processes and improving implementation of NeGP need to be addressed. Discuss. Also, enumerate the set of principles guiding the design and implementation of the e-Kranti Program (NeGP 2.0). **(250 Words) 15**

नई प्रौद्योगिकियों को अपनाने, प्रक्रियाओं को रूपांतरित करने और एनईजीपी (NeGP) के कार्यान्वयन में सुधार लाने से संबंधित कई मुद्दों से निपटने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, ई-क्रांति कार्यक्रम (NeGP 2.0) के डिजाईन (रूप-रेखा) और कार्यान्वयन का मार्गदर्शन करने वाले सिद्धांतों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

The government has embarked on a journey of digitization, and the National e-Governance plan is a prominent feature under its implementation.

The NeGP, though suffers from a few systemic concerns, such as:

a) Absence of privacy legislations
→ in light of high data storage under Aadhar, privacy judgement etc.

b) Lack of effective laws to tackle cybersecurity issues

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→ IT act, 2000 & amended act 2008, still tackle issues in patches.

c) Lack of skills of IT officers, government employees to effectively promote schemes under NeGP & enhance work efficiency.

d) Presence of mistrust among majority population towards usage of digital services → like bill payments, etc.

e) Ethical issues of using Big data, AI etc, → profiling of identities, privacy issues.

f) Absence of robust Telecommunication networks → delay in Bharatnet project.

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The e-Kranti (NeGP 2.0) focusses on the following:

a) Provision of all services by default through digital medium → payment of salaries, procurements, fund transfers.

b) Cybersecurity enhancement → e-swachta kendras, Critical system protection, Cyber coordination centres.

c) E-Resource centres in villages with ISRO

d) Provision of Telemedicine, Tele education, Tele law

e) Grievance redressal for digital services

Thus, the e-Kranti tackles some of the issues of the NeGP and is therefore a progressive step towards digitisation

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19. India-China ties, marked by a broad convergence on transnational issues, on one hand and geostrategic rivalry on the other, have profound implications not only for the two countries but also the current international system. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

भारत-चीन संबंध, जो एक ओर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों पर व्यापक अभिसरण और दूसरी तरफ भू-रणनीतिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता द्वारा चिन्हित होते हैं, इनका न केवल इन दोनों देशों के लिए बल्कि वर्तमान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रणाली के लिए भी गंभीर निहितार्थ हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Indo-China relationship in recent times has evolved from that of a prolonged conflict to that of congagement (containment + engagement)

The Synergy of Indo-China friendship is seen in :

a) Collaboration to reform WTO, financial institutions like IMF, WB, by creating parallel institutions like New development Bank in Asia.

b) Support for development of neighbourhood → 2+1 dialogue mechanism

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initiated with Nepal.

c) Support in Climate Change negotiations → to ensure accountability of & funding by developed nations.

d) Counter terrorism operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief.

On the other hand, the relationship suffers from the following thorny issues:

a) Border disputes in Doklam, Aksai Chin, Arunachal etc.

b) String of pearls theory of China → a threat to Indian Maritime Security → implications for South east Asian nations as

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economic indebtness of African countries.

c) Increased leverage to smaller nations to decide on which country (India or China) to collaborate with → more choices available.

d) Water sharing issues → Bangladesh getting embroiled in rivalry over Brahmaputra water distribution.

e) Involvement of India in Quad, brings extra regional actors in the perimeter of Indo-China rivalry.

Thus, the long & complicated differences between India-China have in recent times acquired a transnational character.

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20. India's expanding interests rather than endorsement by others should be the basis of its engagement with what is being termed as the Indo-Pacific. Analyse. **(250 Words) 15**

हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में भारत की संलग्नता अन्य देशों को समर्थन के स्थान पर भारत के विस्तृत होते हितों पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The recent establishment of Quad group, as well as USA's Indo-pacific strategy, has brought the focus on the autonomy of India's foreign policy.

Some of the recent Indo-pacific related endorsements for India were:

a) USA's renaming of pacific command to Indo-Pacific command → increased focus on Indian Ocean where India is a leader.

b) Quad group: As a challenge to China's adventures in South China Sea,

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against the UNCLOS.

c) Bilateral support from countries like Myanmar, Vietnam etc, to actively engage with Indo-Pacific, enter trade negotiations, explore resources & tackle China as it did at Doklam.

Though such endorsements highlight India's hard & soft power, they bring up the following concerns:

a) Direct confrontation with China not feasible → Economic & military superiority of china.

b) India's policy priorities are to ensure peace in neighbourhood, and enhance

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trust among smaller nations.

c) RCEP negotiations for example, are relevant to its participation with Indo-Pacific but will force liberalisation towards Chinese goods.

d) Domestic concerns for access to resources limit India's capability to provide large scale funding internationally, as China can.

e) India also understands the relevance of collaborating with China, especially at WTO, IMF etc, & hence entering its regional domain in Indo-Pacific can dent the relations.

Thus, in light of the above concerns, India must actively engage in Indo-Pacific taking China on-board & focus on its interests.